

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Page 15, lines 15 to 29:

**[0052]** Any combination or all of the above-described genetic manipulations may be carried out. For example, the cells of the conduction system, (e.g., Purkinje fibers) may be modified as to elicit exogenous expression of the T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel. Alternatively, the cells of the conduction system are modified so that they express the T-type  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  channel,  $\text{I}_{\text{Kr}}$  and  $\text{I}_{\text{KS}}$ . In the SA node, all three channels contribute to the pacemaking rate, for example, an alternative embodiment is to modify all three characteristics of the Purkinje fibers simultaneously or sequentially. Alternatively, the cells may be modified so as to express one or more of the above-mentioned channels concurrently with suppression of endogenous  $\text{I}_{\text{Na}^+}$  (i.e.  $\text{Na}^+$  current. Methods for genetic modification of the Purkinje fiber cells are disclosed in commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. Patent Application Serial Number ~~XXXXXX,XXX~~ 10/423,595 entitled "Genetic Modification of Targeted Regions of the Cardiac Conduction System", (~~Docket No. P-11273~~)," the teachings of which are herein incorporated by reference.